

1. Purpose Statement

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is seeking grant applications for a project to increase awareness of the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community in Ecuador.

Funds should be used for projects that will support educational efforts for Government of Ecuador (GOE) officials and the Ecuadorian public about the human rights of the LGBT community in Ecuador. Proposals should address **both** grant objectives as described under Section III.

Applications should be from local Ecuadorian NGOs, preferably with a focus on LGBT rights.

1.1 Grant Amount: \$24,000

1.2 Program Duration: Approximately 15 months (no more than 18 months)

2. Background

Despite some progressive laws and policies, the LGBT community in Ecuador faces social discrimination. The U.S. Government shares the concern of the GOE about the continued existence of private clinics that claim to “cure” or “de-homosexualize” LGBT people. These clinics hold LGBT persons against their will and sometimes physically abuse them to force them to change their sexual orientation. Local LGBT groups report that the clinics use electric shocks, extended isolation, and even rape as part of their “treatments”. Many of the victims of these clinics are interned by their own family members who refuse to accept the victim’s sexual orientation.

The GOE has publicly committed to closing abusive clinics and improving oversight mechanisms to avoid future problems. While the government has shown good political will towards addressing the problem, first responders such as police have not been trained to identify and address violations of LGBT persons’ human rights. Local LGBT groups report that when LGBT persons go to the police with reports of violence, officers attribute the incident to “abnormal behavior” and refuse to file a report or perform any follow-up investigation. While Ecuadorian law provides strong protections of LGBT rights, in reality social discrimination remains strong.

3. Program Objectives

Objective 1: To improve public officials and first responders’ capacity to identify and respond to violations of human rights of LGBT persons, including violations committed by illegal clinics.

Objective 1 – Activity A: Create a train-the-trainers program to educate government first responders and officials (police, local public prosecutors, and members of the intergovernmental task force) to identify and process LGBT human rights complaints, as a means to seek closure of illegal clinics that try to “cure” or “de-homosexualize” LGBT people.

This activity will improve public officials’ ability to recognize and process complaints by LGBT victims. At present, many public officials (police, public prosecutors, etc.) refuse to provide assistance to LGBT persons or fail to recognize that the LGBT person has had his/her rights violated. When LGBT persons take complaints of violence to the police, the incident is sometimes attributed to “abnormal behavior” and the police neither take the complaint seriously nor perform any follow-up investigation. The grantee will use a “train the trainers” approach to educate police, public prosecutors, and other government officials about how to recognize and respond to a human rights complaint by an LGBT person. Appropriate responses may include crisis counseling, legal action, and/or closing illegal clinics that seek to “cure” or “de-homosexualize” LGBT people.

Objective 2: To reduce social discrimination against LGBT persons, thus reducing the internment of LGBT persons in clinics against their will.

Objective 2 – Activity B: Conduct a public education campaign to improve awareness about LGBT human rights.

The second objective is designed to address the underlying discrimination with a public education campaign. It will seek to improve public acceptance and tolerance of LGBT persons, and better understanding that LGBT rights are human rights. As public awareness improves, there will be less social and family pressure for LGBT persons to change their sexual orientation, reducing the “demand” for the illegal clinics.

The proposed activity under this objective is a public education campaign to improve awareness of LGBT rights. This campaign will be targeted at the general public. The grantee will design a campaign that should include materials featuring the testimony of clinic victims or LGBT persons who have faced discrimination. The materials would be distributed through the media, including newspaper and radio, as well as printed publicity. The campaign will focus on the general themes of acceptance, tolerance, and respect. When possible, the grantee should leverage partnerships with other organizations working towards the same goal, such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Ecuadorean Ministries of Health and Justice, among others.

Objective 2 – Activity C: Conduct an education campaign in public high schools to reduce discrimination and bullying.

The second activity under this objective would seek to educate high school students about LGBT rights, discrimination, and bullying. Through interactive training sessions, the grantee would help students identify prejudices against LGBT persons and understand the effects of discrimination and bullying. The grantee would also design materials to be used in school trainings, which could have some overlap with the materials developed for the public education campaign. When possible, the grantee should leverage partnerships with other organizations working toward the same goal, such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Ecuadorean Ministries of Health and Justice, among others.

4. Proposed Project Timelines

			Months														
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Objective 1	Activity A	Design training program															
		Train GOE trainers															
		GOE trainers train others															
Objective 2	Activity B	Design communication campaign															
		Produce campaign materials															
		Deploy communication campaign															
	Activity C	Design school education campaign															
		Produce educational materials															
		Training sessions in schools															

5. Proposal Process

A review panel will select one (1) proposal that meets **both** grant objectives and all activities. Proposals will be evaluated based on how effectively the proposal addresses objectives, the sustainability of program accomplishments, the capacity of the recipient organization to account for the funds and ensure that funds are spent for the intended purposes, and the expected results.

Proposals should not exceed six pages in length and must include the following: a summary of the proposed program; a project description, including specific activities, desired outcomes and performance measures; a detailed budget of no more than \$24,000 and a budget narrative which includes a description of every cost associated with activities; a description of the recipient organization, including their technical and management capacity, past performance and other relevant information on project

implementation the applicant considers important. The project should not exceed eighteen months in duration.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Applications will be evaluated for technical comprehensiveness/feasibility and for cost effectiveness, as follows:

- a) Technical Merit: Likelihood that proposed program will contribute to the advancement of LGBT rights, with well-defined, achievable, and measurable results and meaningful milestones.
- b) Past Performance: Experience in related LGBT issues and/or Human Rights. Also specific examples of successful establishment of alliances with other organizations will be evaluated.
- c) Cost effectiveness and cost realism will also be considered as part of the overall evaluation of the application but there is no specific ranking for these two factors. Evaluation committee will analyze costs overall to ensure that what is proposed is the most effective use of proposed funding (cost effectiveness) and that the applicant has appropriately and realistically has accounted for all its activities (cost realism).

IMPORTANT:

Questions on the request for proposals:

Any questions about this request for concept papers should be submitted in writing to e-mail address contactocultural@state.gov by Thursday, August 30 2012. After the deadline, questions will NOT be considered.

Questions received on time will be addressed and shared with all applicants accordingly.

Deadline for submission of proposals:

The email submission of applications shall be due no later than **Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 17h00, in MS Word / Excel or PDF with the subject line "US Embassy LGBT Grant Application"** to contactocultural@state.gov.

U.S. Embassy Quito bears no responsibility for transmission errors or delays. In case your organization may want to submit a hard copy of the proposal, please do so to the following address:

Attention to:

LGBT Grant

Public Affairs Section

U.S. Embassy Quito

Av. Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro

Quito - Ecuador

Language for the applications:

The original version of the application form is written in **English** (Attachment 1), however to promote broader participation in this announcement, please find attached a translated Spanish version (Attachment 2). **Applications must be submitted in English using the Form included in Attachment 1.** Applications written in Spanish will not be considered.